

Remarks/Arguments

The foregoing amendments to the claims are of formal nature and do not add new matter. Claims 119-126, 129-131, 135-142 are pending in this application and are rejected/objected to on various grounds. Claims 119-123 and 125-126 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to claim its subject matter in subsequent continuation or divisional applications. The rejections to the remaining claims are respectfully traversed.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the Information Disclosure Statement submitted with the previous response.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph- Enablement

Claims 119-126 and 135-145 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for lack of enablement.

In view of the cancellation of claims 119-123 and 125-126 without prejudice or disclaimer, this rejection is moot for these claims. Further, Claim 124 has been amended to remove any reference to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 194 and claim 135 has been amended for clarity to recite "the nucleic acid molecule consisting of a fragment of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 193, or a complement thereof, of at least 20 nucleotides length that hybridizes under stringent conditions..." Therefore, dependent claims 135-145 also recite this recitation.

Accordingly, the currently amended claims are enabled and thus, Applicants believe that these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph - Written Description

Claims 119-126 and 135-145 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement.

In view of the cancellation of claims 119-123 and 125-126, the amendments to claims 124 and 135, and the discussions above, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 129-131 were objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Again, in view of the amendments to the base claims and the discussions above, this objection should be withdrawn.

The present application is believed to be in *prima facie* condition for allowance, and an early action to that effect is respectfully solicited. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. **08-1641**, referencing Attorney's Docket No. **39780-2730 P1C53**.

Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 14, 2004

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